



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 21, 1999

H.R. 459

An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act for FERC Project Number 9401, the Mt. Hope Waterpower Project

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on June 16, 1999

CBO estimates that enacting this legislation would have no net effect on the federal budget. It does not contain any intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not impose any costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 459 would extend the deadline for construction of a hydroelectric project currently subject to licensing by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) until August 3, 2002. The proposed extension is for FERC project number 9401. This provision may have a minor impact on FERC's workload. Because FERC recovers 100 percent of its costs through user fees, any change in its administrative costs would be offset by an equal change in the fees that the commission charges. Hence, the act's provisions would have no net budgetary impact.

Because FERC's administrative costs are limited in annual appropriations, enacting H.R. 459 would not affect direct spending or receipts. Therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply to the bill.

On April 26, 1999, CBO prepared a cost estimate for H.R. 459, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Commerce on April 21, 1999. The two versions of H.R. 459 are identical, as are the two estimates.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Kim Cawley. This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.